

a plurality of memory cell blocks further comprising;
a plurality of word lines;
a plurality of bit lines; and

32
a plurality of memory cells, wherein each of said plurality of memory cells corresponds to a selected one of said word lines and a selected one of said bit lines; and wherein said plurality of memory cells are divided into a first group of memory cells and a second group of memory cells, said first group of memory cells provided for storing data and said second group of memory cells provided for storing attribute data of said first group of memory cells, and wherein said attribute data includes a rewriting number of said first group of memory cells.--

REMARKS

Claims 63-67, all of the claims in the present application, are being canceled. Rather than abandoning the present application as a result of canceling all the claims, a Continued Prosecution Application is being filed in order to pursue a different set of claims 68-75 that are being added by this Preliminary Amendment. This allows the amendments made to the present application specification and the Information Disclosure Statements, with copies of the references, that are already on file with the present application to be utilized during the examination of these new claims without having to again be filed in a new application.

New independent claims 68 and 74 are exact copies of claims 7 and 18, respectively, of U.S. patent no. 5,818,754 - Ogura, granted October 6, 1998. New independent claim 71 is an exact copy of claim 12 of the Ogura patent, except that the last word "bits" of the patent claims has been changed to "bytes." This change makes claim 12 consistent with the disclosure the present application. The Ogura patent describes sectors having a data capacity of either 512 bits or 512 bytes. The new dependent claims being added by this Amendment are patterned after some of the dependent claims of the Ogura patent but are not exactly the same.

Effective Filing Date

As specified in the "Cross-Reference to Related Application" section added to the beginning of the present application by the Preliminary Amendment filed on August 28, 1998, the present application is entitled to an effective filing date of April 13, 1989. The Ogura patent no.

5,818,754 was filed in the United States on December 27, 1996, claiming the priority of a Japanese application also filed December 27, 1996. Thus, the present application has an effective filing date that is over five years prior to that of the Ogura patent.

Inventorship

The amended sole inventorship of Dr. Eliyahou Harari remains proper for the new claims being added by this Amendment.

Support in the Present Application for New Claims 68-74

The present application incorporates U.S. patent no. 5,095,344 ('344 patent) of Dr. Harari by reference on page 11, line 26, and page 22, line 14, and mentions it again on page 26. It is the combination of the present application specification and the incorporated '344 patent which provides support for all of the claims 68-74.

Examples of the attribute data are given in the present application with respect to the Figure 5 sector partition diagram. In addition to user data, which is described to be 512 bytes of data as a specific example, an individual sector may contain data of defects of the sector. The incorporated '344 patent additionally describes storing in an individual sector the number S of program/erase cycles which has been experienced by that sector. (see Fig. 12 and col. 28, lns. 36+, for example.)

Information Disclosure Statement

A Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being prepared to include the Ogura patent, those of its references not already of record herein and a few other pertinent references. It is respectfully requested that the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement already on file in this Application, which has not yet been made of record, as well as the Second statement to be filed shortly, both be considered and their references made of record in the file of the present application.

Conclusion

A prompt examination and action on the new claims 68-74 are solicited.

Dated: Sept. 30, 1999 1999

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald P. Parsons, Reg. No. 24,486
MAJESTIC, PARSONS, SIEBERT & HSUE P.C.
Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 1100
San Francisco, California 94111-4106
Telephone: (415) 248-5500
Facsimile: (415) 362-5418

Atty. Docket: HARI.006UST